

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A portable computer having a first power mode and a second power mode, comprising:
 - a memory bus; and
 - a control system coupled to the memory bus, wherein the control system is configured to operate the memory bus at a first speed in the first power mode, and a second speed different than the first speed in the second power mode.
2. The computer of claim 1, wherein in the first power mode, the portable computer is operated via a battery power source, and in the second power mode the computer is operated via an external power source.
3. The computer of claim 1, further comprising a power mode detector which detects whether the portable computer is in the first power mode or the second power mode.
4. The computer of claim 1, wherein the control system includes the power mode detector.
5. The computer of claim 1, wherein the second bus speed is double the first bus speed.
6. The computer of claim 1, further comprising a clock generator coupled to the control system for generating a clock corresponding to the first bus speed and the second bus speed.
7. The computer of claim 1, further comprising a bus speed input for switching the portable computer between the first bus speed and the second bus speed.

8. The computer of claim 1, wherein the control system includes processor and a chipset.

9. The computer of claim 8, wherein the memory bus is in communication with the chipset.

10. The computer of claim 1, further comprising an override switch coupled to the control system for switching the memory bus to the first speed or the second speed.

11. A computer having a first battery power mode and a second external power mode, the computer comprising:

 a memory;

 a memory bus in communication with the memory; and

 a control system coupled to the memory bus for reading and writing the memory, the control system including a clock generator, wherein the control system is configured to operate the memory bus at a first clock speed in the first battery power mode, and a second clock speed greater than the first clock speed in the second power mode.

12. The computer of claim 11, further comprising a power mode detector which provides an indicator to the control system as to whether the portable computer is in the first battery power mode or the second external power mode.

13. The computer of claim 11, wherein the second bus speed is double the first bus speed.

14. The computer of claim 12, further comprising a bus speed input for switching the portable computer between the first bus speed and the second bus speed.

15. The computer of claim 1, wherein the control system includes a processor and a chipset.

16. The computer of claim 8, wherein the memory bus is in communication with the chipset, and the chipset is in communication with the clock generator.

17. A mobile computing device having a first battery power mode and a second external power mode, the computer comprising:

a memory;

a memory bus in communication with the memory; and

a control system coupled to the memory bus for reading and writing the memory, the control system including a clock generator, wherein the control system is configured to operate the memory bus at a first clock speed in the first battery power mode, and a second clock speed greater than the first clock speed in the second power mode.

18. The device of claim 17, wherein the mobile computing device is a laptop computer.

19. The device of claim 17, wherein the mobile computing device is a personal digital assistant.

20. The device of claim 17, wherein in the first battery power mode the device is coupled to an internal battery power supply, and in the second external power mode the device is coupled to an external battery power supply.

21. A method of managing power in a mobile computing device comprising:
determining whether the mobile computing device is operating in a first power mode or a second power mode;
operating the memory bus at a first bus speed when the mobile computing device is in the first power mode; and

operating the memory bus at a second bus speed different from the first bus speed when the mobile computing device is in the second power mode.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising controlling a clock generator to determine the memory bus speed.

23. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
determining the memory bus speed independent of an internal processor bus speed.

24. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
defining the first power mode to be a battery power mode; and
defining the second power mode to be an external power source mode.

25. A graphical user interface for use in a mobile computing device comprising:
a first power mode selection including a slow memory bus selection and a fast memory bus selection; and
a second power mode selection including a slow memory bus speed selection and a fast memory bus speed selection.

26. The interface of claim 25, further comprising:
a user defined memory bus speed in the first power mode selection.